Chapter 22 | It's Been a While, Buri Daikon

Snow!
Daddy, snow!
You're right!
Think it'll stick?
Stick! Stick!
Glad tomorrow's a day off!
SHIVER
Come to think of it...
There is something I was thinking of making when it got cold...

Yup.
Do you want to eat...
...Mommy's buri daikon?
Buri dai...?
Here it is!
Buri daikon!

Make it for me, 'kay?
Mm.

We'll do it if there's buri in stock, okay?
WHOOOOSH
Okay!
But we may not be able to buy it tomorrow...
Hmm

SPARKLE
It's COLD!
We're going shopping.
Come on.
SHLUMP
FLUMP
It's...
SNOW!
It's come!
It's come!
It's come!
Snow has come!

Huh.
They're shoveling snow!
Oh!
Because it looks kind of like cotton?
...it looks kinda warm, doesn't it?
The snow's cold, but...
The whole shopping arcade's got people here to help, so it's going faster than I thought.
Yeah, but it's fun.
That looks hard.
Yagi's here too!
Hey...
It's Sensei and Tsumu-tsumu!...
I'm worried about Kotori's place.
We're fine here...
...but...
Want me to help shovel too?

Her place is a few blocks from the arcade...
...and her mom's staying over on location for filming, so I was going to go check on her...
I see! This is a job for Tsumugi!
Yeah... Maybe we should stop by.
I hope she's not snowed in!
It's probably not that bad.
FLUMP
Um... Sensei!
What are you guys doing here?
MOUND

I did the front of the house with the neighbors, but...
...we're the only ones who use the front of the store, so I put it off...
You need to hurry or it'll freeze up!
Are you okay?
WHOA!
You're not getting anywhere with your shoveling!
Tsu-mugi's here to help!
Tha—
FLUSH
Thank you, guys!
Then I'll do the other side.
Okay, I'll start over here.
...so every-thing's fine!
I'm here now...
SHUNK
SHUNK
SHUNK

* Setsubun: A holiday held on February 3rd, where people throw beans at a monster called an oni to drive away bad luck.

POP
LOOM
IT'S THE ONI!

D-Did my daughter do something–?
Da–
!?
Tsumugi!?
What happened–?!
DASH
ばっ
Dad?!
Oh, that's right!
Dad!

So I came to shovel the walk.
It snowed a lot...
What are you doing here on a day like this...?
Um.
I'm not an oni.
Y-you're not an oni?
JOLT
Who are these people?
If things seemed okay I was going to leave without saying anything, but...
AAAHH
Shovel the walk...
M-Mom's not here...
But do you want to come in for some tea?
Thank you for taking care of my daughter!
Bow
BA-DUM BA-DUM
You're a teacher?!
I-I'm a teacher at Iida-san's high school.
I-I'm...
I'm not some shady guy...
I'm from the local shopping arcade.

...
I see.
I came by without telling Megumi, and she's not here at all.
No, I'll be going.
You sure about this?
Yeah, he said he's leav-ing...
Sorry for the trouble. And thanks!
I'll head out too.
Huh? Uh, thanks for the help!
Okay, I'll be on my way too!
DASH

Huh?
Come join us, Kotori-chan!
Buri daikon, huh?
We're going to make buri daikon!
...so we'll be going.
Okay, we're going to do some shopping and head home...
...would you have it here with me?
Um... If my mom says it's okay...
...
No, we hadn't set anything up for today, so we can't.
Awww...
And cold and lonely are kinda the same, right?
'Cause it's cold, you know?
I see...
See? Kotori-chan wants to eat with us too!
Huh?

I'm glad they had buri
RUSTLE
...when we went shopping, so I wrote it down.
I thought we might need the buri daikon recipe...
That's very kind of you.
OK
If you're sure about this...
Yay!
She says!
Going shopping
Buri daikon, and rice, and miso soup...
Okay, let's have one more dish, something light!
We locked out!
Time to make the rice!
I can't wait!
Ooh!
I'm getting kind of excited!

Yeah!
It's been forever since we've had buri daikon!
Yeah!
I'm excited too!

Granulated stock is a huge help...
...but it's worth it to sometimes make the stock yourself.
It's really good, isn't it?
It smells so good, too!
I'm good at this!
Look!
TUG
TUG
Removing the heads and innards of the sardines

Okay...
So first, let's plan out the order of what we're cooking today.
OKAY!

Roughly:
Prepare the dashi stock for the miso soup.
We'll make the stock with kombu and dried sardines.
Make the buri daikon!
Once it's done, we'll make the sunomono while we let the flavor absorb.
Continue to make the miso soup
Cut up the ingredients and add miso.
Sunomono: Vegetables pickled in sweet vinegar.
Hmm hmm...
If you figure out what you're going to do in advance it means you don't have to rush around later.
HMM HMM...

I-I'll help too!

Okay!

Okay! Now it's time to cut the daikon radish, Tsumugi!

Now mix that with the kombu and put it on the stove

It's okay! It's okay! We can take our time!

You did it all by yourself!

Good Job!

ぽPOP

I-

I did it!

CLARE

SLICE

....let's put the head and parts of the buri without much meat on them in hot water...

...then when the outsides turn white, we'll put them in ice water.

While we're simmering the daikon radish...

BUBBLE BUBBLE

Hmm...

When should I have her start doing this on her own?

CHOP

CHOP

I can do this!

Daddy's a monster with scales!
HA HA
Huh...?
Because they're harder, you think?
PING
PING
They're not like the aji's scales—they bounce, huh?
ooh
Like this...
PING
Now take off the scales and dirty parts.
PING

You've got rice on your face, daddy.
I'll get it, kay?

...

Now take the buri and daikon radish, add ginger, sake, and water and put it on the stove.
Use an otoshi-buta lid, too!
Now we put it in plenty of water to soak.
Okay, the daikon radish has been simmered so it's tender.
Use high heat!
Wait five more minutes and then add the soy sauce.
Then let it simmer for five more minutes and we're done!
STEAM
STEAM
Skim the foam off the top, too!
Five minutes after it boils, we add in the mirin and sugar...
...and give it at least 20 minutes to let the flavor soak in.
Baste it periodically with some of the broth you used to simmer the ingredients.
That's right. Turn off the heat...
FIDGET
FIDGET
Huh
So it doesn't take much time after you add the soy sauce.

Can you make yuzupon?
It has a mild flavor...
...so it's good for kids who don't like sour things...
...so let's make yuzupon* too!
We're going to add a bit of yuzu citrus peel to the buri daikon...
* Yuzupon: A soy-based sauce with vinegar yuzu citrus flavor
Your dad cooks, huh?
...
I think you said he made gohei mochi.
My dad used to make it for me...
Your daddy should've come too!
He just gets super-obsessive about certain things.
No, not really...
Oh, I see.

Tsumugi, people have all kinds of things going on in their lives.
Uh... hmm... that might be difficult.
Things?
'Cause he came all the way to be with you, right?
Huh?
I see... What makes Yagi scary is his eyes, huh?
He's not scary!
When you look closely he's got these cute little eyes... He has a funny face!
No!
BWAH HA!
Is he an oni after all?
OH!
It's been long enough that just talking about the divorce doesn't upset me any more...
It's fine!
And I've talked to both my parents about it.
Iida-san...
You don't have to talk about it if you don't want to.

I love them both.
You don't get along?
Hmm...
It's not that...
How to explain it...?
But...
They grew apart...
...so it's hard for them to be around each other.
And I still consider them my mom and dad.

...but sometimes things don't go well, right?
There are no really bad kids...
I know about that!
Then I hope it all gets better soon!
Maybe?
hmmm...
I had that happen at the pre-school!
She remembers that, huh?
GASP
SQUEEZE
I'll wish for you!

Thanks!
Hee hee

Okay, let's do this!
Yeah!

All right!
It's all finished!

Let's eat!
Yup!
Yeah, you played a lot in the snow today, didn't you?
I'm hungry!
Ooh...
FIDGET FIDGET
NOM
NOM
So flavor-ful...
smell...
Yeah! I'm not quite sure that I get it, but I think I agree!
The fish is squeezy and soft!
The buri is good too...
WOW
Rice!
Ooh! Ooh!

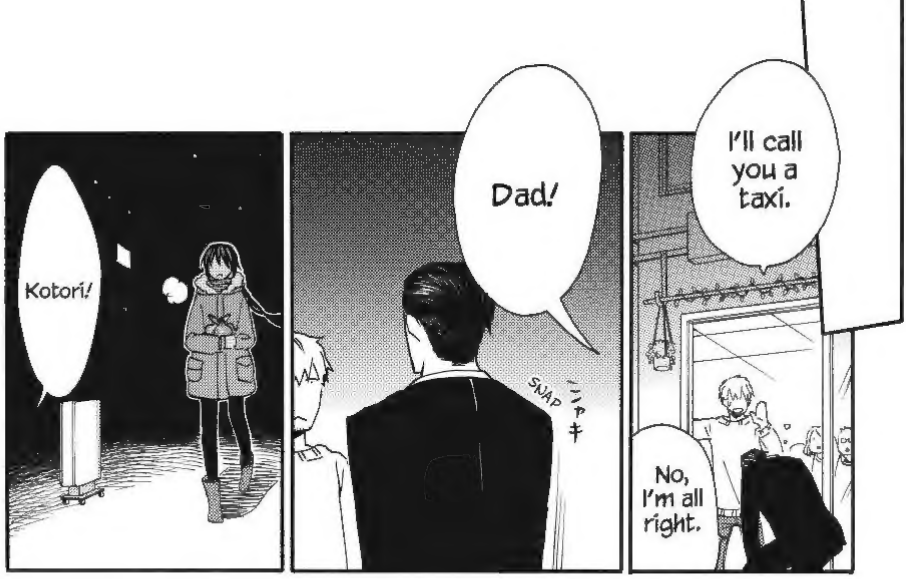
It's like Mommy's!
We made it!
HEE HEE
Aah... I'm full.♥
We never cut our daikon radish into square chunks at home...
PLIP PLIP
Buri daikon... but...
...it was hard to sneak bites.
No eating it yet!
So...
ドキ BA-DUM
ドキ BA-DUM
Just a bite...
You're right.
Yeah...

I want dad...
...to eat it too...
SIGH
Oh, what should I do?
Let's go!
Huh?
No... I wouldn't want to bother him...
Let's have him eat it! It's good, right? Right?
JOLT
!

You wouldn't be bothering him.
He came all this way in the snow to help shovel, right?
You wouldn't be bothering him.

You're his daughter, and he cares about you.

Yagi?
Sorry. I created a drunk.
Um...
FLIP
Why don't we contact him now—
RING RING


I'll call you a taxi.
No, I'm all right.
Dad!
SNAP
Kotori!

What? What are you doing here?
Sorry, I was a bit curious so I grabbed him.
No, nice timing!
It's cold out. You need to get home.
...
TWIDGE
SHFF

I made...
...some buri daikon...
You can have some if you want...

And...
Yeah.
...It's home-made?
Thanks for coming today.

If you need me I'll always come to help.
Always.
See? It was better to eat together, right?
...
You're right.
It's good.
Mmm...

To be continued...